

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No. 09/998,243

REMARKS

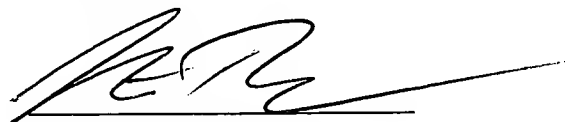
Applicant cancels claims 1, 2, 15-18 and 26-29 without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 3-14 are now pending in the application. Applicant rewrites claim 11 in independent form including the limitations of its base claim 1. This amendment does not change the scope of claim 11, and no estoppel is created.

The Examiner indicates that claims 3-14 are **allowed**.

Thus, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 19, 2004